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NEWS RELEASE

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Cathy Ann Bencivengo Confirmed as District Judge for Southern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate has confirmed President Obama’s nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Cathy Ann Bencivengo to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

Judge Bencivengo, 53, was confirmed today by a 90-6 vote. Nominated by President Obama on May 11, 2011, Judge Bencivengo is expected to receive her commission shortly and will fill a judgeship vacant since June 6, 2010, when U.S. District Judge Jeffrey T. Miller took senior status.

Judge Bencivengo was appointed a federal magistrate judge on December 5, 2005. She maintains chambers at the Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse in San Diego.

Prior to joining the bench, she worked as an associate then partner at the San Diego firm of DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP (formerly Gray Cary Ames & Frye) from 1988 until her judicial appointment. She served as a national co-chair of the firm’s Patent Litigation Practice Group.

A native of Teaneck, New Jersey, Judge Bencivengo received her B.A. and M.A. from Rutgers University in 1980 and 1981, respectively. She received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1988.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California had 8,887 new case filings in fiscal year 2011. The court is authorized 13 permanent judgeships and currently has one vacancy.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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